

# FABLES



**VERTIGO**



May 07  
suggested for  
mature readers  
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**WILLINGHAM  
BUCKINGHAM  
D'ISRAELI  
JONES  
KITSON  
LAPHAM  
PEPOY  
PERKER  
RUGG  
SHANOWER  
SNYDER  
THOMPSON**



# Burning Questions

*In which we take a break from our gathering storm of troubles, tumults and dangers to dwell for just a small time on a modest cluster of heretofore unanswered, albeit humble, mysteries.*

*All of the stories were written by Bill Willingham  
at the command of various readers.*

*Lettering by Todd Klein - Coloring by Lee Loughridge  
Cover by James Jean - Assistant Editor: Angela Rufino  
Editor: Shelly Bond*

*And the stories, in order of appearance, were illustrated by*  
*M. K. Perker    Jim Rugg*  
*Mark Buckingham    Andrew Pepoy*  
*Joëlle Jones    D'Israeli*  
*Jill Thompson    David Lapham*  
*John K. Snyder III    Eric Shanower*  
*Barry Kitson*

*By way of introduction, this issue answers questions posed by our loyal, imaginative and, above all, inquisitive readers. The questions were strictly limited to inquiries about past events in the fifty-plus issues of Fables published to date. Some questions couldn't be used, of course, for diverse reasons. In many cases the same, or similar, questions were asked by multiple readers (in which case the first reader to ask received credit for it). Also, in many cases, readers asked questions that were already slated to be important parts of upcoming stories. After filtering out those that couldn't be used, there were still far too many submissions than could possibly fit into this slim single issue, even after reducing the list to only the most excellent of the excellent. Thank you, everyone who participated. Since this issue started with you, this issue is dedicated to each and every one of you. Here then, for your amusement and edification, are our answers to the eleven questions that best inspired our elite cadre of assembled talents.*



Eduardo Blake  
of Buenos Aires,  
Argentina asks:

# Did Hakim ever manage to get a regular job?

THIS STORY WAS  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
M.K. PERKER.



I'M GLAD  
YOU LIKE YOUR  
NEW APARTMENT,  
HAKIM.



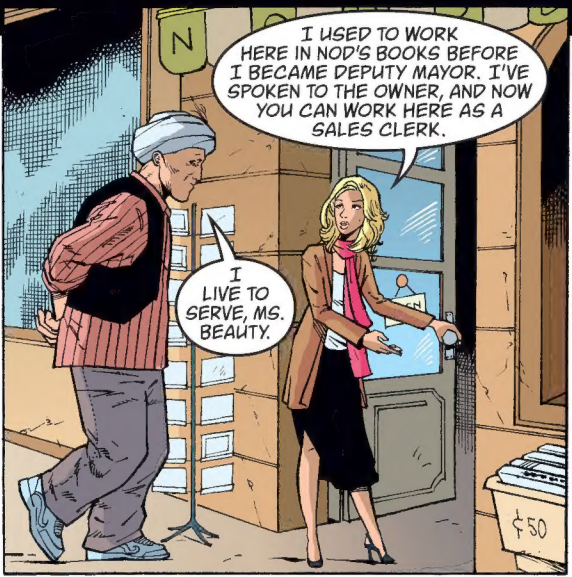
IT WILL  
SUFFICE.

BUT NOW, OF  
COURSE, SINCE YOU'RE A  
FREE FABLE IN FABLETOWN,  
YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY RENT  
ON YOUR RESIDENCE, AND  
THAT MEANS GETTING  
A JOB.



I WOULD BE  
HONORED TO SERVE  
AS FABLETOWN'S  
ASSASSIN.

OH DEAR,  
NO. WE DON'T DO  
THINGS LIKE THAT. I  
THOUGHT A MORE  
GENTLE CAREER  
MIGHT SUIT  
YOU.

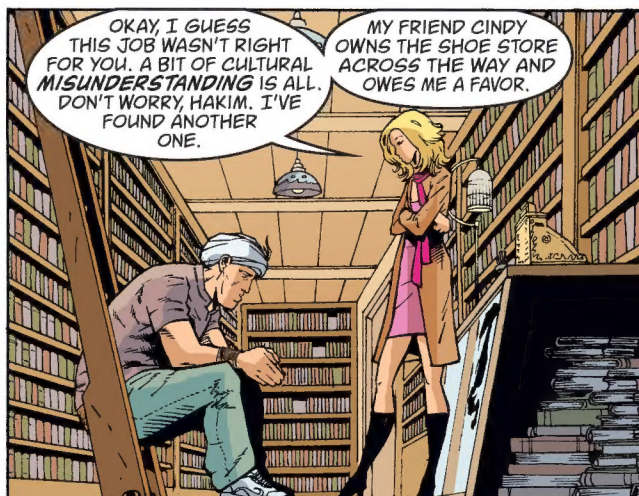
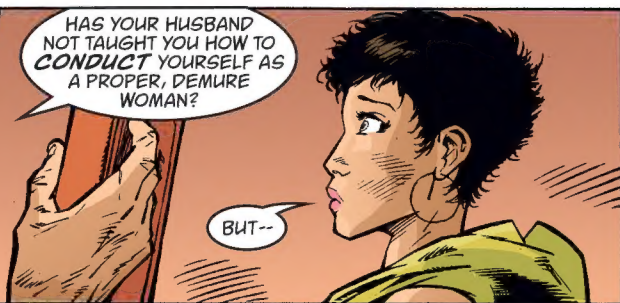
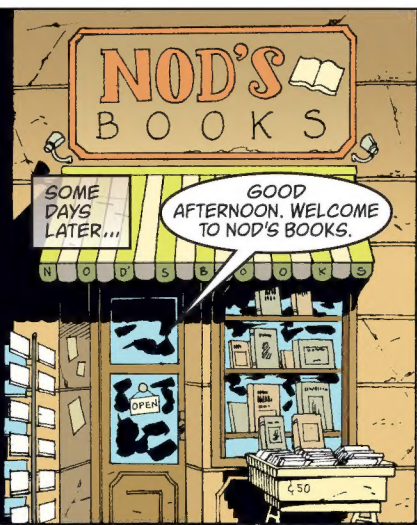


I  
LIVE TO  
SERVE, MS.  
BEAUTY.

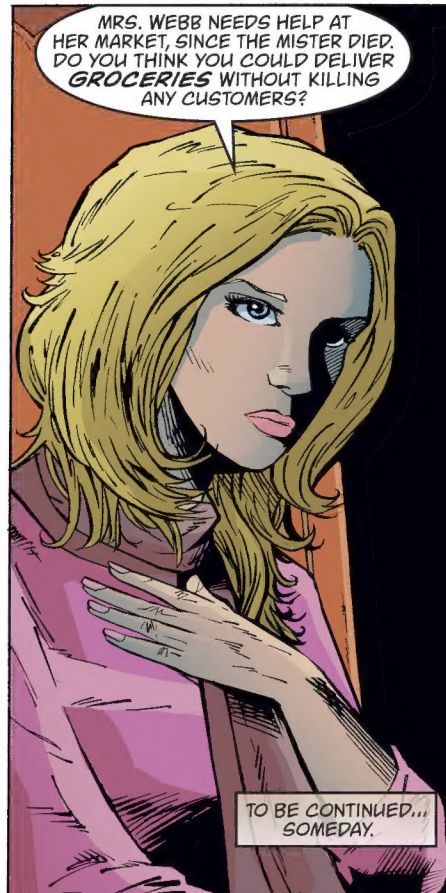
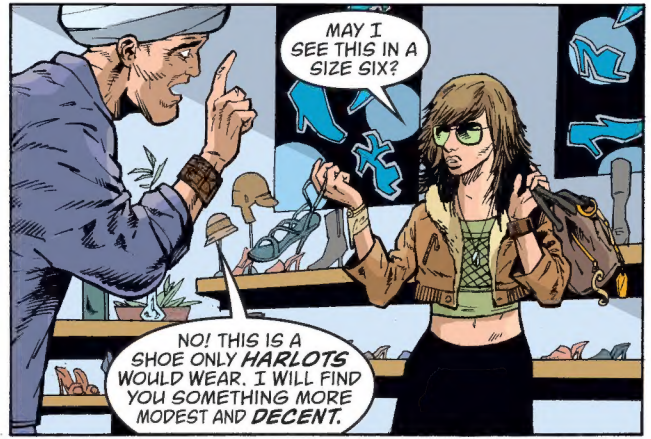
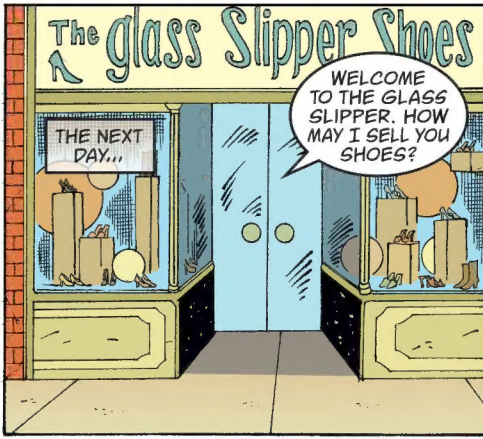
I USED TO WORK  
HERE IN NOD'S BOOKS BEFORE  
I BECAME DEPUTY MAYOR. I'VE  
SPOKEN TO THE OWNER, AND NOW  
YOU CAN WORK HERE AS A  
SALES CLERK.

\$50









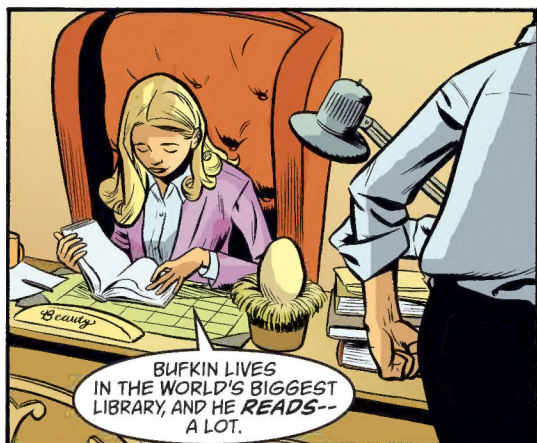
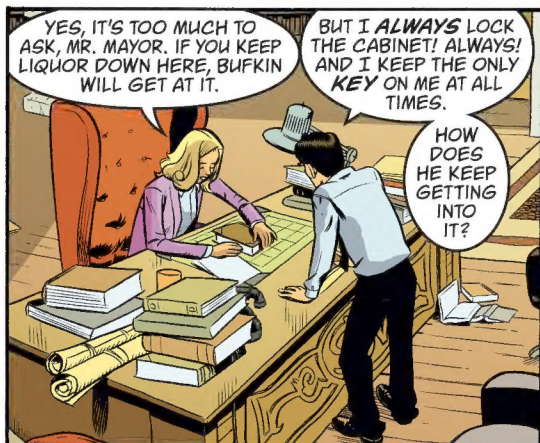
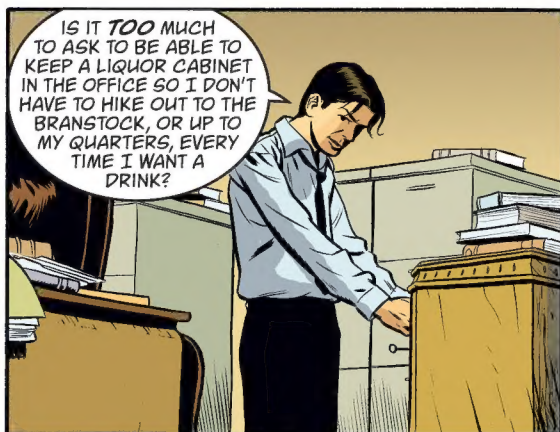
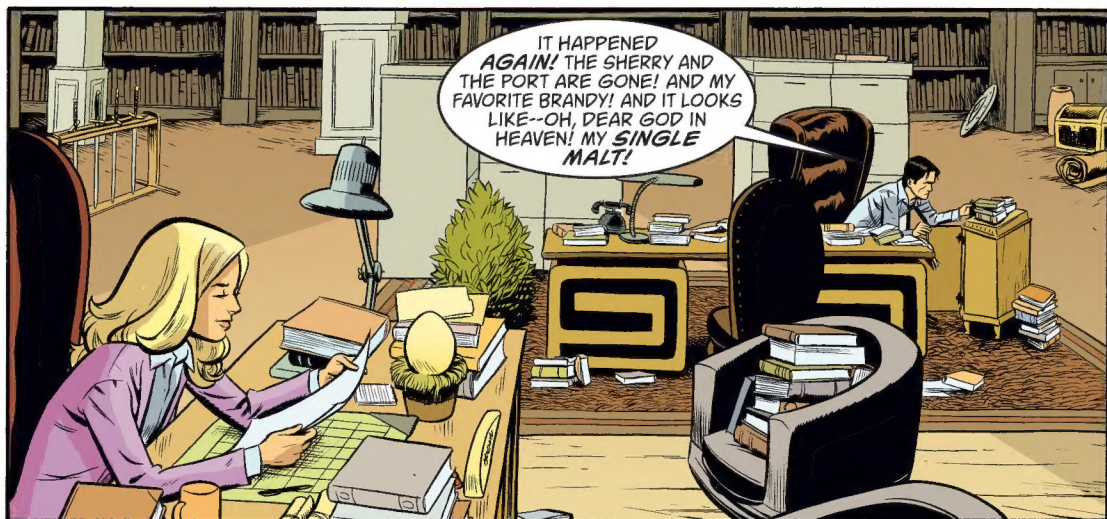
TO BE CONTINUED... SOMEDAY.



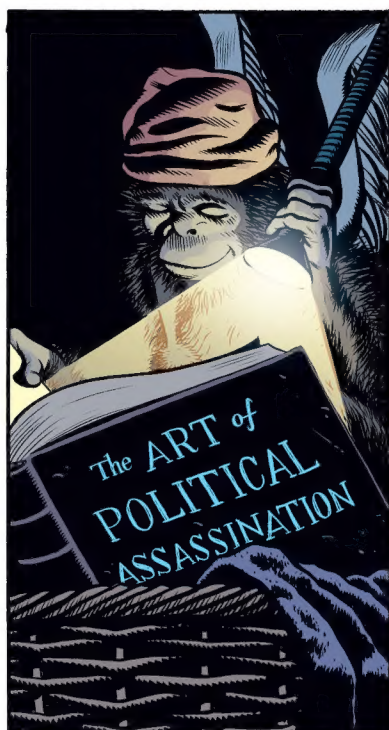
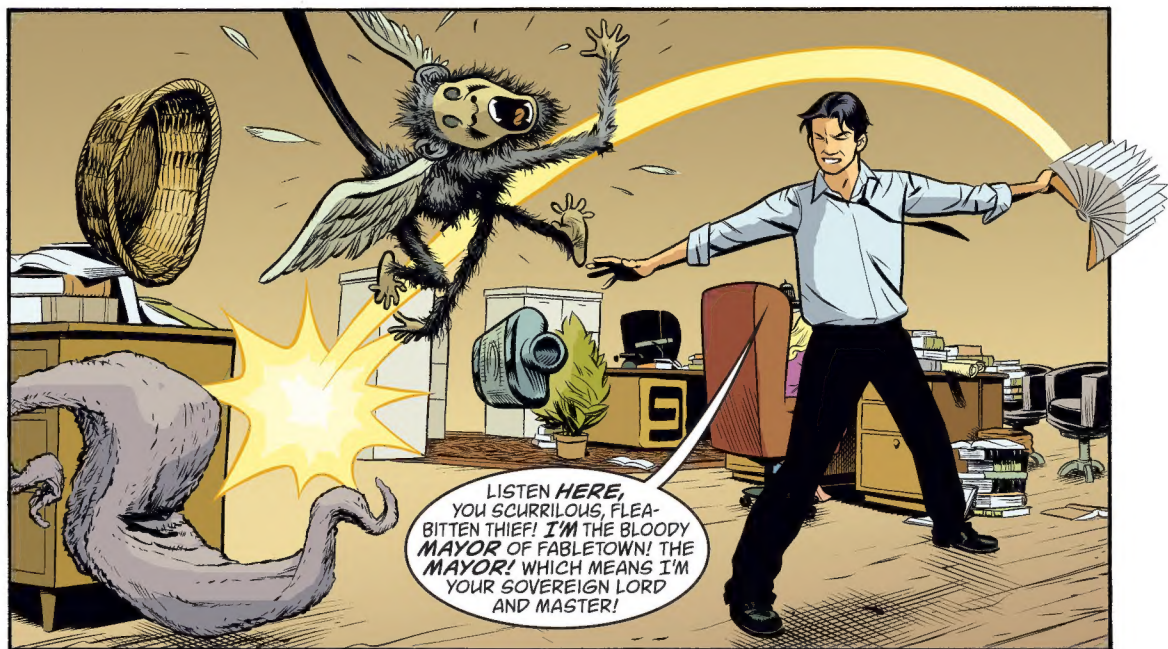
Christopher Maslanka of Howell, New Jersey asks:

# How does Bufkin keep getting his hands on the liquor?

THIS STORY WAS ILLUSTRATED BY JIM RUGG.









Ed Mayer  
of Plainfield,  
Illinois asks:

# What is training like for a new member of the Mouse Police?

THIS STORY WAS  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
MARK BUCKINGHAM.

TODAY, RECRUITS, WE  
WILL BE CONDUCTING TESTS  
DESIGNED TO MEASURE YOUR  
PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR  
BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE  
MOUNTED POLICE.

YOU WILL HAVE  
TO RUN TWO MILES  
IN UNDER TWO HOURS. THEN  
YOU WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE  
OUR **CONFIDENCE** COURSE  
IN UNDER THREE  
MINUTES.

THEN YOU'LL  
HAVE TO SWIM A FIVE-  
MILE LENGTH OF THE FARM  
RIVER--**AGAINST**  
THE CURRENT.

HUH?

REALLY?

THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL A  
MUNDY RAT **BARE-HANDED** AND  
EAT ITS **HEART**, AFTER WHICH WE  
WILL HAVE A THIRTY-MINUTE  
BREAK FOR LUNCH.

**IMMEDIATELY**  
FOLLOWING LUNCH  
YOU'LL HAVE TO  
PROVE YOUR  
**STRENGTH**  
BY DEFEATING ONE  
GULLIVER-SIZED  
OPPONENT IN  
**SINGLE**  
**COMBAT**.  
THEN YOU'LL  
HAVE TO...

SERIOUSLY?

IS IT TOO LATE  
TO **RECONSIDER**  
SIGNING UP, DRILL  
SERGEANT?

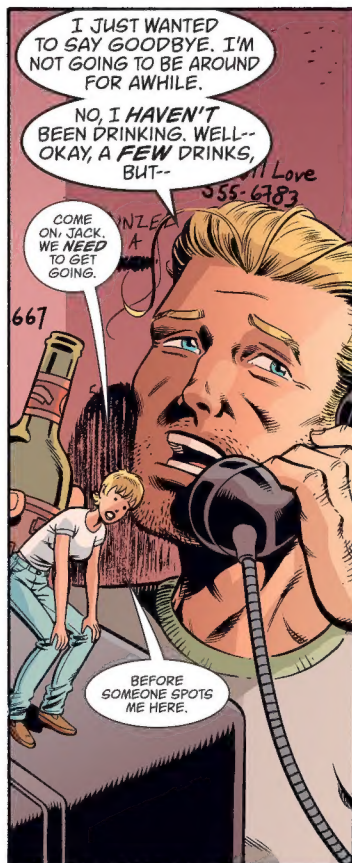
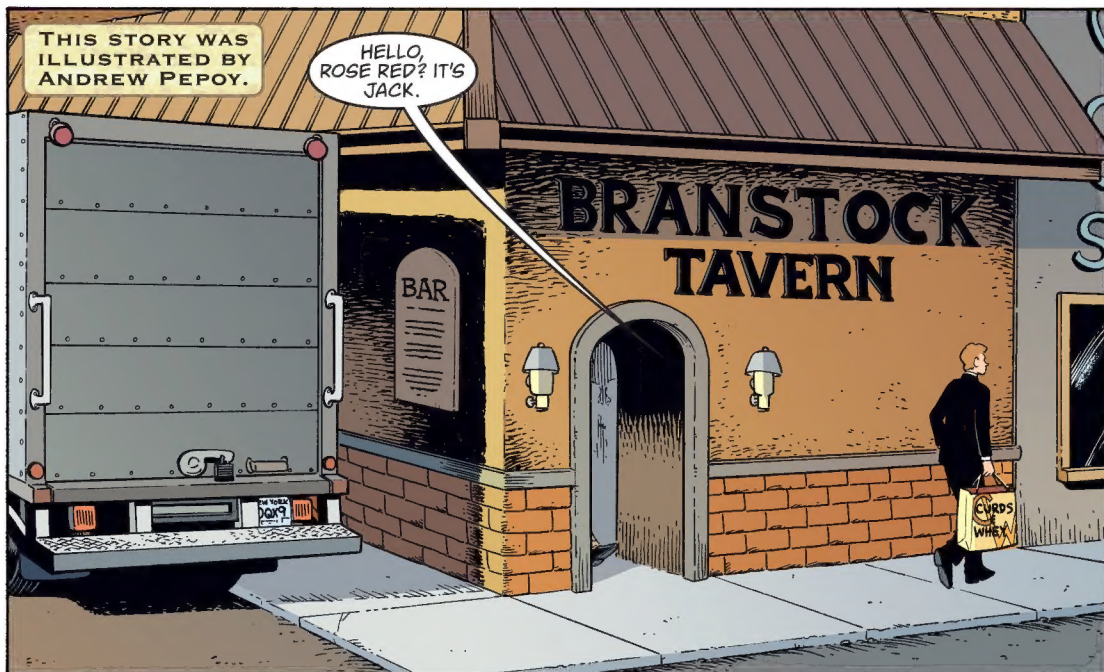
DOES DRILL  
SERGEANT DONAN  
**ALWAYS** TEASE THE  
NEW RECRUITS  
LIKE THIS?

HE'S NOT  
PRECISELY TEASING.  
IT'S PART OF HIS **TRAINING**  
ROUTINE. FIRST RECRUIT TO  
**FAIN** GETS DROPPED  
FROM THE CLASS.

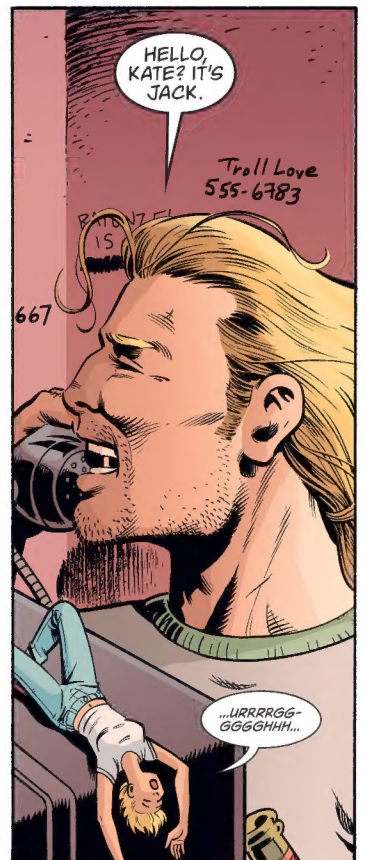
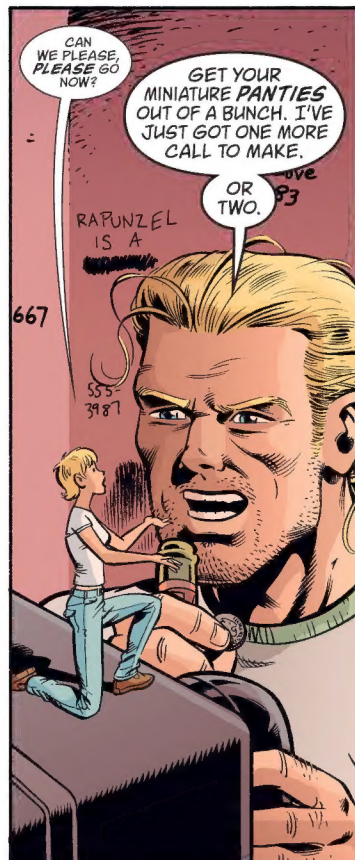
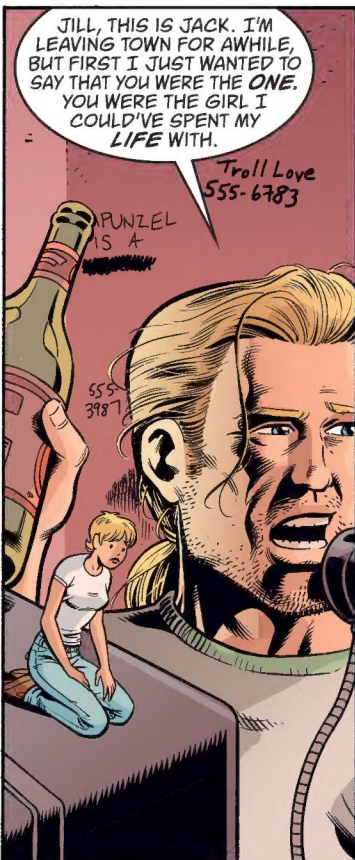


Tim Hotchkin  
of Saint Paul,  
Minnesota asks:

# Did Jack leave anyone messages before he left Fabletown forever?









Duncan Berry  
of Burnley,  
England asks:

# How are the new Three Little Pigs adjusting to being pigs?

THIS STORY WAS  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
JOËLLE JONES.

HEADS UP,  
BLUE. HERE COME  
THE BROTHERS.

OH, JOY.



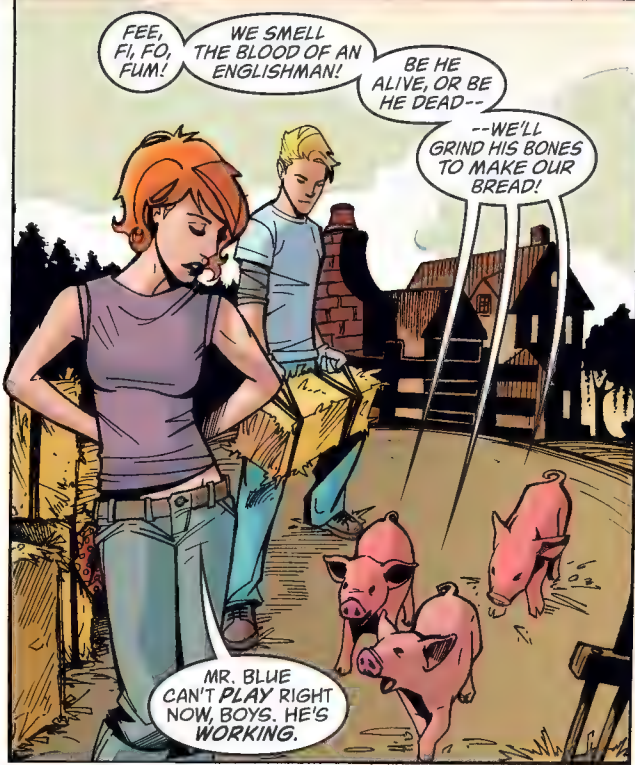
FEE,  
FI, FO,  
FUM!

WE SMELL  
THE BLOOD OF AN  
ENGLISHMAN!

BE HE  
ALIVE, OR BE  
HE DEAD--

--WE'LL  
GRIND HIS BONES  
TO MAKE OUR  
BREAD!

MR. BLUE  
CAN'T PLAY RIGHT  
NOW, BOYS. HE'S  
WORKING.



SORRY, GUYS.  
MAYBE AFTER  
LUNCH.

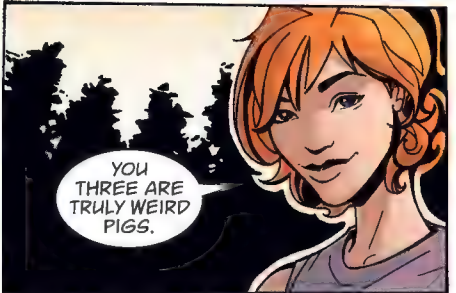
ONE SIDE,  
TINY WOMAN, OR  
WE'LL STOMP YOU  
FLAT WITH OUR  
MASSIVE FEET.

BUT  
DON'T STRAY  
TOO FAR. YOU'RE  
NEXT.

TRY RUNNING  
FROM US AND WE'LL  
CATCH YOU IN A SINGLE  
TEN-MILE STRIDE!



YOU  
THREE ARE  
TRULY WEIRD  
PIGS.





Colin Campbell  
of Malvern,  
Pennsylvania asks:

Besides Fly, who else  
has asked questions of the  
magic mirror?









Brandon Cook  
of Huntington,  
West Virginia asks:

# What is Boy Blue's favorite song?

THIS STORY WAS  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
JILL THOMPSON.

SECURITY  
OFFICE

B. WOLF

WELL,  
THERE ARE  
**TONS** OF GREAT  
JAZZ SONGS AND  
ANY NUMBER OF  
STANDARDS THAT  
ARE DEAR TO MY  
HEART.

WHY  
DO YOU ASK,  
BIGBY?

NO  
PARTICULAR  
REASON. ANY OF  
THEM GOOD TO  
**DANCE**  
TO?

SURE, BUT WHAT  
KIND OF DANCING? FAST AND  
ENERGETIC, OR SLOW, SULTRY  
AND **ROMANTIC**?

THE SECOND  
ONE. JUST PICK YOUR  
FAVORITE SONG, BLUE, AND  
DO THAT. AND MAKE SURE  
YOU START IT THE **MOMENT**  
I STEP ONTO THE DANCE  
FLOOR.

WHEN YOU ENTER THE  
**DANCE FLOOR**? OH  
MY GOD, BIGBY! DO YOU  
ACTUALLY HAVE A **DATE**  
FOR THE REMEMBRANCE  
DAY BALL?

DID THE  
WORLD **END** WHEN  
I WASN'T LOOKING?  
WHO **IS** SHE?

ARE YOU IN  
LOOOOOOOVE?

FEELING  
**SUICIDAL** TODAY,  
KID?



Tiana Krohn-Ching  
of Honolulu,  
Hawaii asks:

What song was playing when Snow  
and Bigby first danced together  
at the Remembrance Day Ball?

THIS RELATED STORY  
WAS ALSO ILLUSTRATED  
BY JILL THOMPSON.

THERE  
YOU ARE. I WAS  
BEGINNING TO  
THINK I'D BEEN  
STOOD UP.

DON'T  
YOU LOOK NICE.  
COME ON. WE NEED  
TO BE OUT ON THE  
DANCE FLOOR.

WHY? IS THIS  
PART OF YOUR COMPLEX  
SCHEME TO CATCH MY  
SISTER'S KILLER?

COULD  
BE.

HEADS UP,  
KIDS, I THINK  
THAT'S HIM.

BIGBY'S  
LEADING  
SOMEONE  
OUT ON THE  
DANCE FLOOR.

OH, DEAR  
LORD, I THINK HE'S  
WITH SNOW WHITE!  
THAT WILY OLD HOUND  
DOG!

OKAY NOW,  
JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED.  
BLUE SKIES, SWEET AND  
SLOW.

AND-A-ONE,  
AND-A-TWO...

I LOVE  
THIS SONG.  
DID YOU ORDER  
IT UP JUST  
FOR ME?

COULD  
BE. DO I EARN  
EXTRA POINTS IF  
I DID?



Jennifer Ferrell  
of San Diego,  
California asks:

# What is Frau Totenkinder knitting?

THIS STORY WAS  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
DAVID LAPHAM.

IF YOU DON'T  
MIND MY ASKING, FRAU  
TOTENKINDER, WHAT EXACTLY  
IS IT YOU'RE **KNITTING**  
ALL THE TIME?

I DON'T MIND  
AT ALL, BEAUTY. IN FACT,  
YOU MOST OF **ALL** DESERVE  
TO KNOW. I'M KNITTING A  
GARMENT FOR YOUR FIRST-  
BORN CHILD.

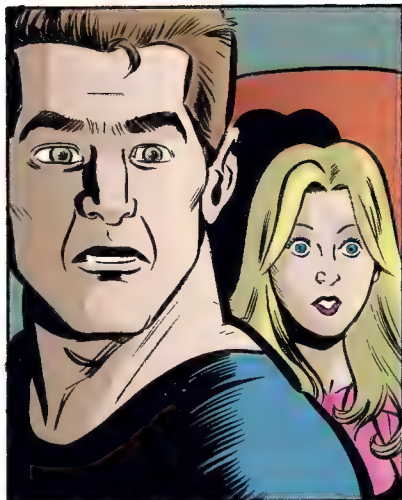
MY--?  
BUT I'M NOT  
EXPECTING--  
I'M NOT EVEN  
PREGNANT!

ALL  
THINGS IN  
TIME.

WOULD  
YOU LIKE TO SEE MY  
**PROGRESS?**

SURE.

I THINK  
IT WILL FIT YOUR  
DARLING BABY JUST  
**FINE. SNUG AS A  
BUG.**

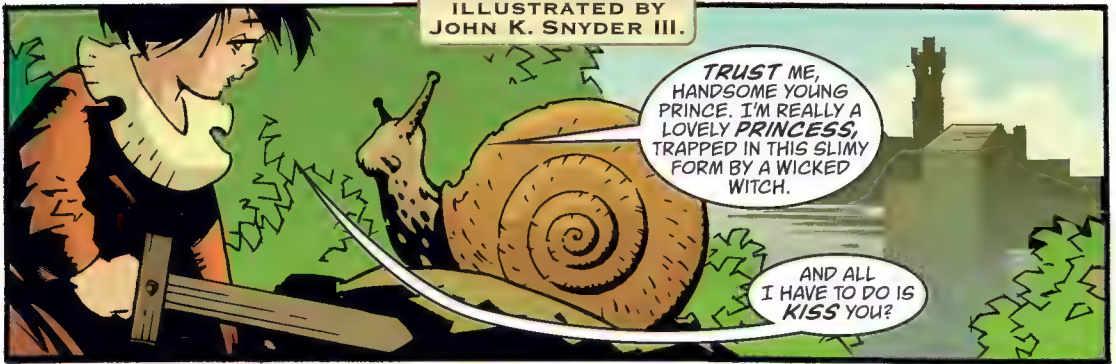




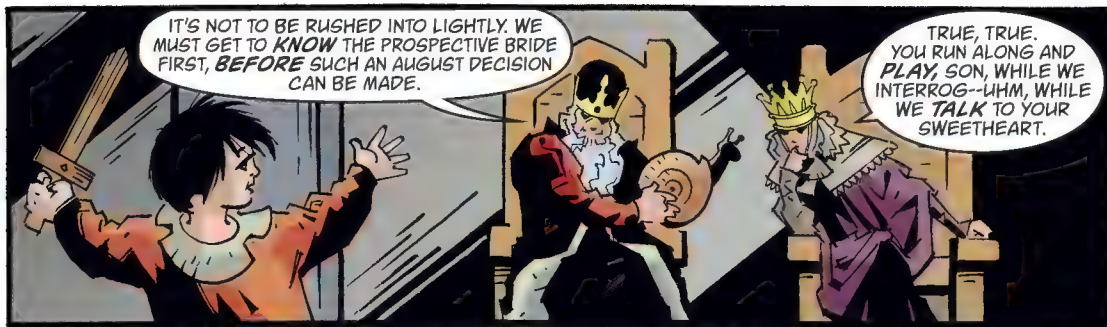
Paul Nolan of  
Southampton,  
U.K. asks:

# Who was Prince Charming's first love?

THIS STORY WAS  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
JOHN K. SNYDER III.







IT'S NOT TO BE RUSHED INTO LIGHTLY. WE MUST GET TO *KNOW* THE PROSPECTIVE BRIDE FIRST, *BEFORE* SUCH AN AUGUST DECISION CAN BE MADE.

TRUE, TRUE. YOU RUN ALONG AND *PLAY*, SON, WHILE WE INTERROG--UHM, WHILE WE *TALK* TO YOUR SWEETHEART.



SO, ARE YOU *REALLY* AN ENCHANTED PRINCESS?

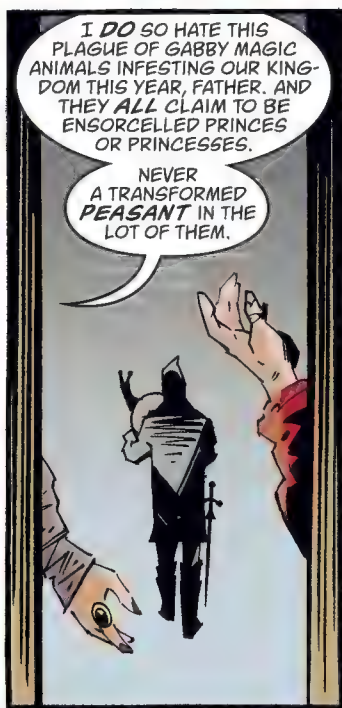
YES, I AM, OH GREAT KING.

TOO BAD FOR *YOU*, THEN. OH, TOO BAD INDEED.



HERE, SIR RONOLD. TAKE THIS DOWN TO CHEF. TELL HIM WE'D LIKE *ESCARGOT* FOR DINNER TONIGHT.

I LOVE THE WAY CHEF PREPARES IT, WITH HIS SPECIAL BUTTER AND TARRAGON SAUCE.



I *DO* SO HATE THIS PLAGUE OF GABBY MAGIC ANIMALS INFESTING OUR KINGDOM THIS YEAR, FATHER. AND THEY *ALL* CLAIM TO BE ENSORCELLED PRINCES OR PRINCESSES.

NEVER A TRANSFORMED *PEASANT* IN THE LOT OF THEM.



WE'LL ROOT THEM ALL OUT EVENTUALLY, MOTHER. THESE THINGS TAKE TIME.

I DO WISH WE HAD A *DAUGHTER*, THOUGH.

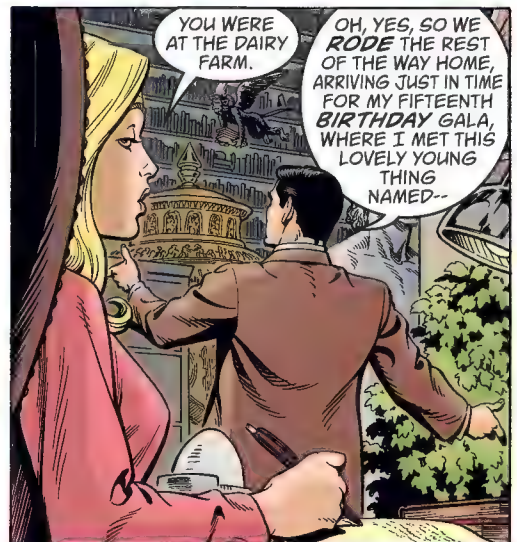
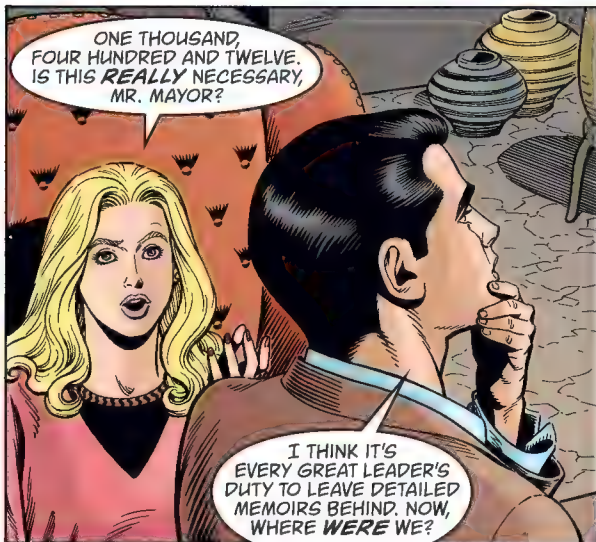
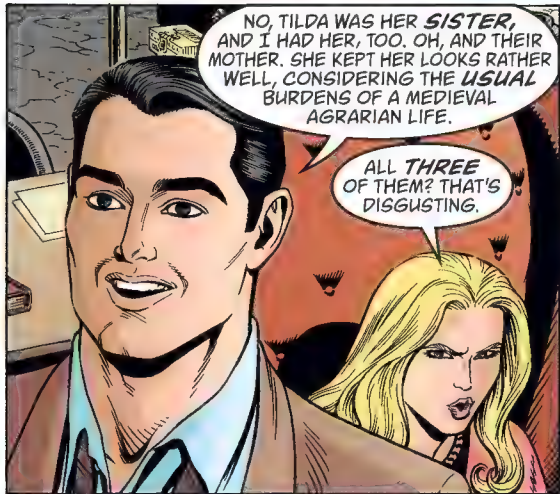
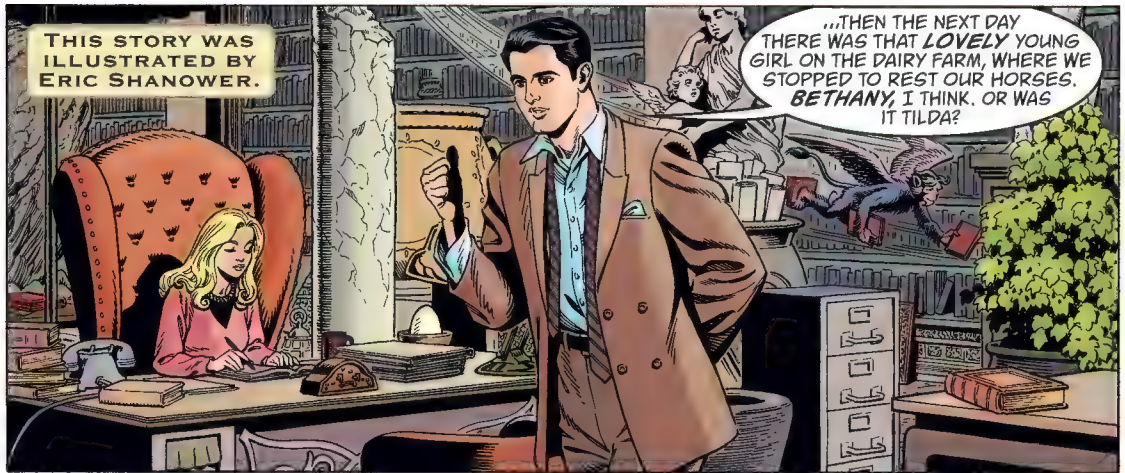


"LITTLE GIRLS DON'T PLAY WITH SNAILS AND FROGS AND SNAKES AND SUCH."



Angela Rufino  
of Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania asks:

# How many romantic conquests has Prince Charming had?





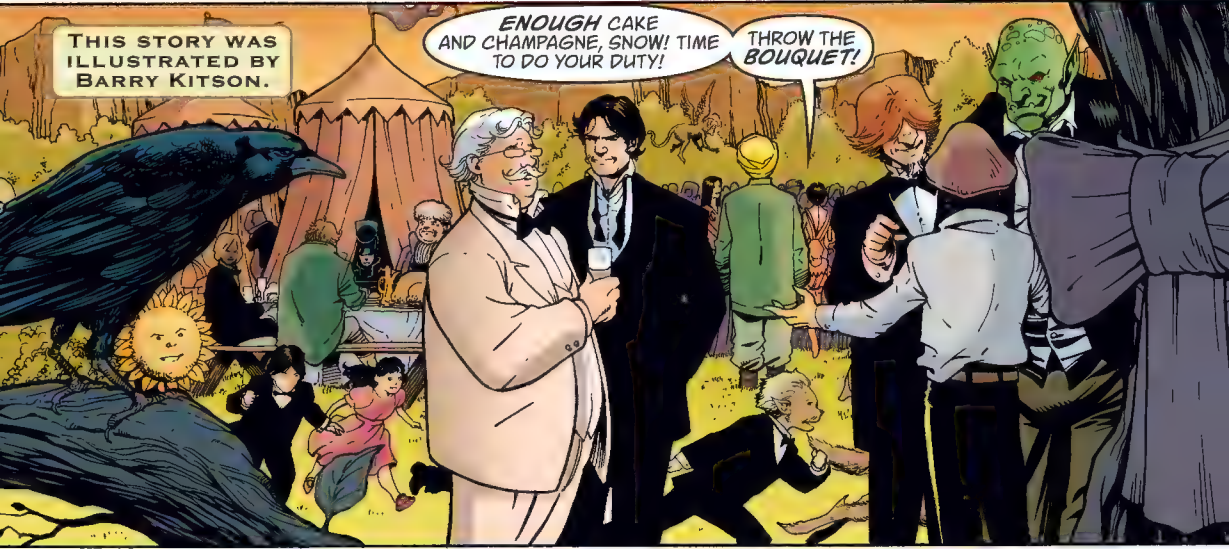
Shelly Bond  
of New York,  
New York asks:

# Who caught the bouquet at Snow White's wedding?

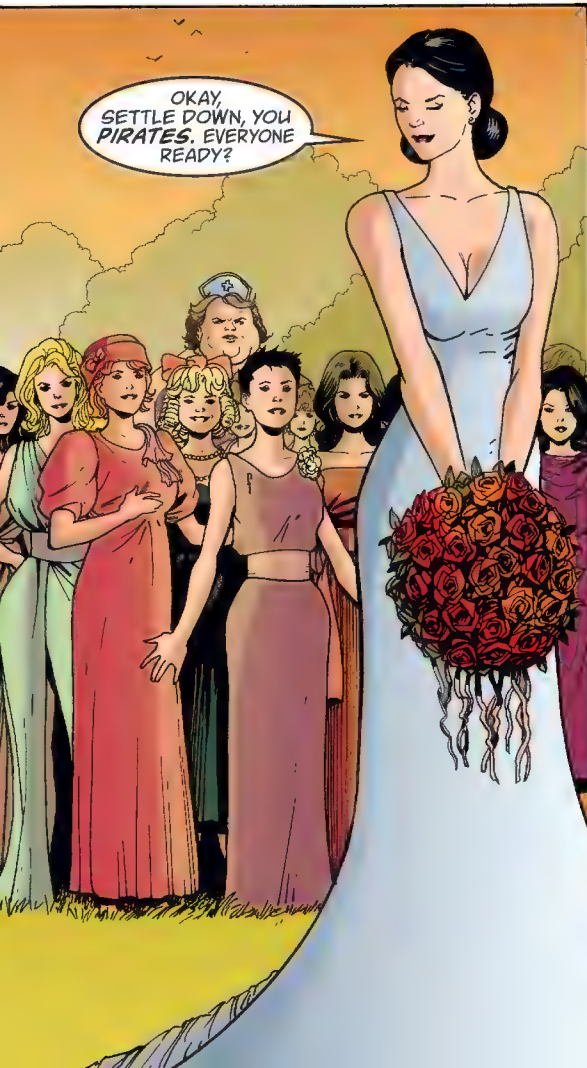
THIS STORY WAS  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
BARRY KITSON.

ENOUGH CAKE  
AND CHAMPAGNE, SNOW! TIME  
TO DO YOUR DUTY!

THROW THE  
BOUQUET!



OKAY,  
SETTLE DOWN, YOU  
PIRATES. EVERYONE  
READY?



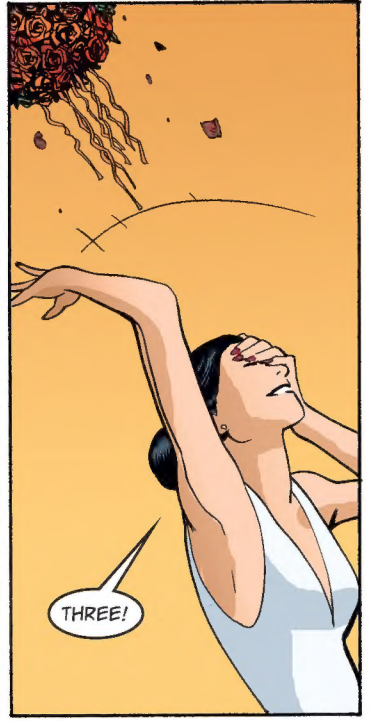
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU  
WANT TO BE *IN* THERE, BEAUTY.  
IS THERE SOMETHING I OUGHT  
TO KNOW?

RELAX, SWEETIE.  
OUR MARRIAGE IS SAFE.  
I JUST MISS THE CHALLENGE.  
BACK IN MY *SINGLE* DAYS NO  
ONE COULD BEAT ME TO THE  
BOUQUET. *NO ONE!*



THROW  
THE BOUQUET!  
THROW THE  
BOUQUET!









I GOT IT!

I GOT IT!



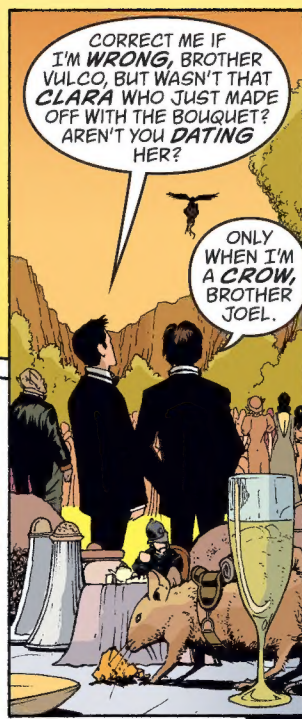
RATS!

I NEARLY HAD IT!

I CAN'T SEE!

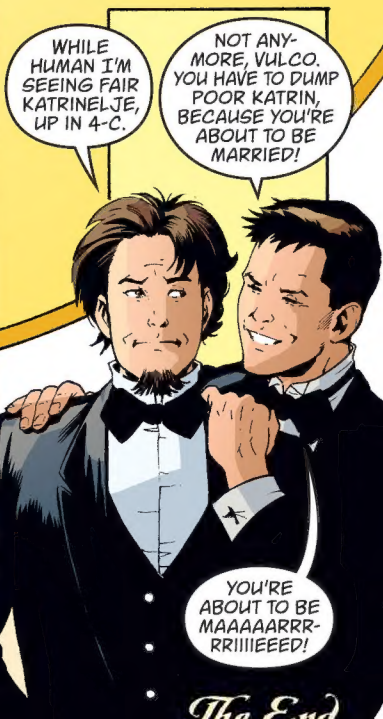
GET OFF ME!

WHO GOT IT?



CORRECT ME IF I'M **WRONG**, BROTHER VULCO, BUT WASN'T THAT **CLARA** WHO JUST MADE OFF WITH THE BOUQUET? AREN'T YOU **DATING** HER?

ONLY WHEN I'M A **CROW**, BROTHER JOEL.



WHILE HUMAN I'M SEEING FAIR KATRINELJE, UP IN 4-C.

NOT ANY-MORE, VULCO. YOU HAVE TO DUMP POOR KATRIN, BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE MARRIED!

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE MAAAAARRRRRIIEEEED!

*The End*



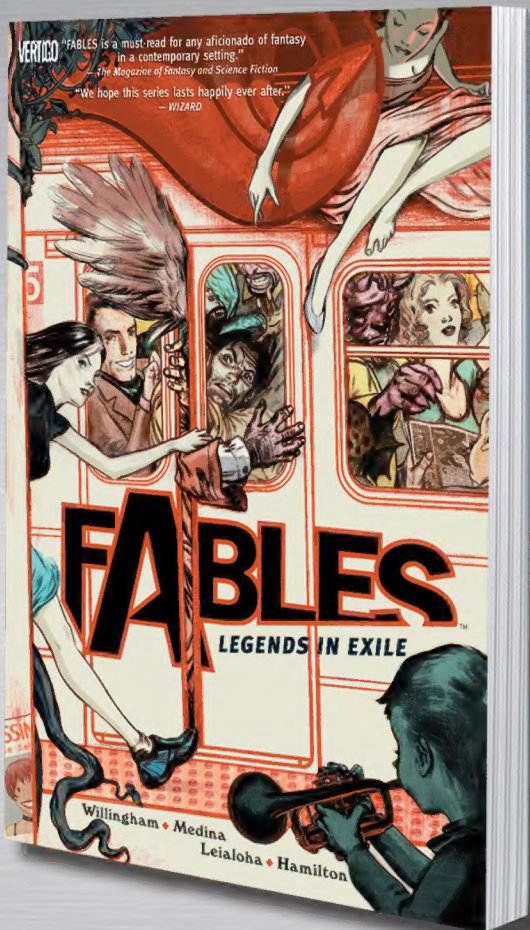
*"FABLES is an excellent series in the tradition of SANDMAN, one that rewards careful attention and loyalty."* – ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

# BILL WILLINGHAM

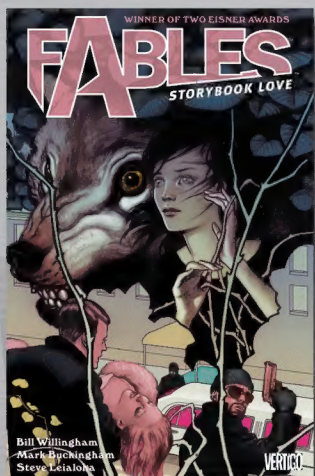
*"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York."*  
– THE WASHINGTON POST



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- VOL. 2: ANIMAL FARM
- VOL. 3: STORYBOOK LOVE
- VOL. 4: MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS
- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



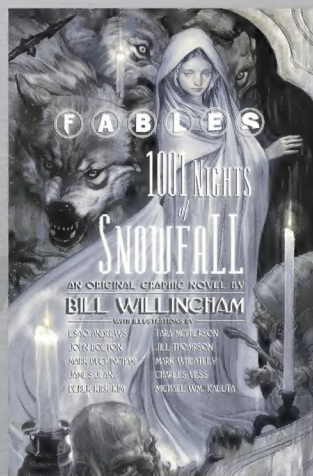
FABLES VOL. 3:  
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:  
HOMELANDS



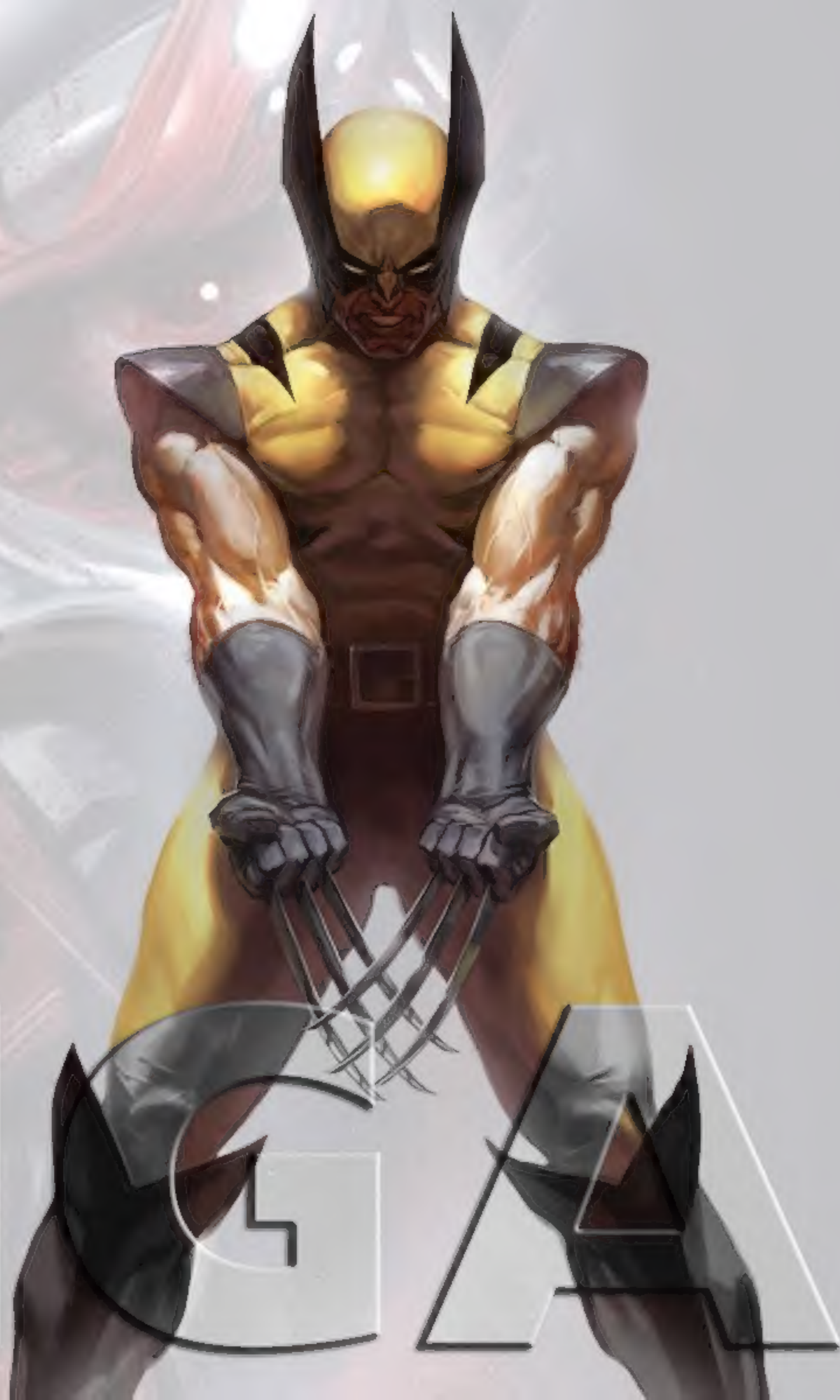
FABLES:  
1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



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Suggested for Mature Readers





NATHAN